

SENATE RESOLUTION 7019 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the ministers and congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville on the celebration of their church's 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville, whose members are celebrating the church's 150th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, the founding group, Gallatin Presbyterian Church, was appointed by the Nashville Presbytery in the fall of 1868. Gallatin Presbyterian Church transferred ten members on October 2, 1869, and two more members on October 7, 1869, to complete the organization of First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville; and

WHEREAS, First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville was formally organized on October 9, 1869; and

WHEREAS, during the latter part of the Civil War, Presbyterians erected a brick building that still stands, largely through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith, who was a grandson of General Daniel Smith; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Alexander Cowan became the first pastor of the church in 1870, beginning a legacy of faithful pastors serving the church that has continued for 150 years to the current pastor, Reverend Michael Davis; and

WHEREAS, First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville retired all of its debt for the first time on January 1, 1965, and has devotedly sent donations to the Presbytery for their efforts in sustaining and opening other congregations within their ministry; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville elected two women as elders for the first time in their history; in the following years, many women were called to serve on the Session as well as minister and being liturgists to serve on Sunday services; and

WHEREAS, the Presbyterian Day School, founded by First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville and in operation since 1963, has provided exemplary teaching to preschool children. The school has been awarded exceptional accreditation from the State of Tennessee throughout its existence; and

WHEREAS, First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville's vision is "Responding to God's love and grace, we serve Christ through our service to others." In the years since its establishment, the church has focused on being a place of justice and mercy by reaching out to people trapped by poverty, abusive situations, or addictions; their service to others has taken them to shelters, feeding programs, ministries of home improvement, and recovery after natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 150 years, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of its community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville, thank the good people of this outstanding congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and this State, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.